

## Amendments to the Claims

### Complete listing of the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and including a plate portion and a thicker shield portion, and said plate portion having further including a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade, ~~said transverse slit extending from said top side ;~~

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;

a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,

said head member having a cutting chamber between said shield portion and said plate portion and said transverse slit extending in said plate portion away from said cutting chamber;

a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and including a pin which is slidably received in an elongate slot in said plate portion;

~~said head member further including a shield extending from one of said sides, said shield~~ portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit ~~and spaced from said top side to define a cutting chamber between said top side and said shield; and~~

each of said legs having a bifurcated upper end defining a slot which receives said plate portion of said head member and, wherein when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in said plate portion of said head member, and when the first and second legs are moved into pivoted, each, respectively, about its pivot connection to said head member to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot causing said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said moves into cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 1, wherein when the first and second legs are moved into a fully closed position, the cutting blade extends into a

corresponding slit positioned in the shield portion opposite the transverse slit in the head member.

3. (Original) The cutting device of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade has a centrally located cutting tip.

4. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 3, wherein said cutting tip is located in axial alignment with said elongate slot.

5. (Original) The cutting device of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade is angled upwardly away from an enclosed portion of said cutting chamber.

ay 6. (Original) The cutting device of claim 1, wherein a guide is located in said transverse slit, said guide is on either side of the cutting blade, and wherein said cutting blade rides between said guide during movement.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ cutting device ~~of claim 6, wherein~~ comprising:  
a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade;  
a shield portion connected to said head portion;  
a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;  
a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,  
said head member having a cutting chamber below said shield portion and said transverse slit extending in said head portion away from said cutting chamber;  
a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said head member;  
said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit,  
when the first and second legs are pivoted, each, respectively, about its pivot connection to said head member to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot causing said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion,

a guide being located in said transverse slit, said guide being on either side of the cutting blade, and said cutting blade riding between said guide during movement of said cutting blade and said guide being is defined by two, parallel spaced pins in said transverse slit that are made of stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) The A cutting device of claim 1, wherein comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and including a plate portion and a thicker shield portion outwardly of said plate portion, and said plate portion having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade,;

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;

a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,

said head member having a cutting chamber between said shield portion and said plate portion and said transverse slit extending in said head member away from said cutting chamber;

a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and including a pin which is slidably received in an elongate slot in said plate portion;

said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit

so that, when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in said head member, and when the first and second legs are pivoted, each, respectively, about its pivot connection to said head member to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot causing said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion and, when the legs are in the closed position, the legs form a key ring opening ~~is formed~~ between the legs at an end of the cutting device opposite of the shield portion.

9. (Currently Amended) The A cutting device of claim 1 comprising:

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade;

a shield portion connected to said head member;

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;

a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,

said head member having a cutting chamber below said shield portion and said transverse slit extending in said plate portion away from said cutting chamber;

a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and including a pin which is slidably received in an elongate slot in said head member;

said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit

so that, when said first and second legs are in an open position, said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in said head member, and when the first and second legs are pivoted, each, respectively, about its pivot connection to said head member to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot causing said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit and across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion and ~~further including~~ a first leg extension being movable within said first leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position and a second leg extension being movable within said second leg said second leg extension is movable from a first retracted position to a second extended position.

10. (Original) The cutting device of claim 9, further including locking means for locking the legs in a closed position when the first and second leg extensions are positioned in the first retracted position.

11. (Original) The cutting device of claim 10, wherein one of the leg extensions includes a latch, wherein when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg extension wherein the legs become locked in the closed position.

12. (Original) ~~The A cutting device of claim 11, wherein said latch is J-shaped comprising:~~

a head member having a top side, left and right sides, left and right side edges and having a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade,;

a first leg pivotally mounted to one side of said head member and an opposed second leg pivotally mounted to another side of said head member;

a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,

said head member having a cutting chamber between said shield portion and said plate portion and said transverse slit extending in said head portion away from said cutting chamber;

a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade and being slidably received in an elongate slot in said head member;

said shield portion having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit,

when the first and second legs are pivoted, each, respectively, about its pivot connection to said head member to a closed position, said connector is caused to move in said elongate slot causing said cutting blade to move relative to said transverse slit across said cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield portion, and one of the leg extensions including a J-shaped latch, wherein when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg extension wherein the legs become locked in the closed position.

13. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 1, wherein said cutting surface of said shield portion is positioned 0.25 inches or less from said top-side plate portion of said head member across said cutting chamber.

14. (Currently Amended) A cutting device comprising:

a head member having a slot therein and a transverse slit and having a cutting blade disposed therein in said slit in said head member;

first and second legs each being pivotally mounted to said head member;

a connector operatively connected to one leg and to said cutting blade, being received in said slot and being operative to move the cutting edge blade of said cutting blade in and out of said slit in said plate portion of said head member on pivotal movement of said first and second legs;

a shield portion connected to said head member and being disposed in a path of said cutting blade wherein when said first and second legs are in an open position said cutting blade is in a retracted condition generally within said slit in

said head member, and when the first and second legs are ~~moved into~~ pivoted on said head member to a closed position said connector is caused to move in said slot in said head member to move said cutting blade ~~moves~~ in a direction of toward said shield portion.

15. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 14, wherein said shield portion includes a cutting surface and wherein when the first and second side legs are in said closed position an outer portion of said cutting blade extends into said shield portion.

16. (Original) The cutting device of claim 15, wherein said cutting surface is triangular.

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17. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 15, wherein a cutting chamber is defined between said head member and said shield portion.

18. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 24 14, wherein the cutting blade is positioned between a guide located within the slit in the head member.

19. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 18, wherein said guide is comprises two parallel pins that are made of stainless steel.

20. (Original) The cutting device of claim 14, wherein when the legs are in the closed position, the legs form a key ring opening.

21. (Original) The cutting device of claim 14, further including a first leg extension movable within said first leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position and a second leg extension movable within said second leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position.

22. (Original) The cutting device of claim 21, further including locking means for locking the legs in a closed position when the first and second leg extensions are positioned in the first retracted position.

23. (Original) The cutting device of claim 21, wherein one of the leg extensions includes a latch, and when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg or leg extension and the first and second legs become locked in the closed position.

24. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 36, 23 wherein said latch is J-shaped.

25. (Original) The cutting device of claim 17, the cutting chamber has a width of less than 0.25 inches.

26. (Currently Amended) A cutting device for severing plastic restraints comprising:

a head member having a cutting blade disposed therein, having a slot and having a transverse slit for receiving said cutting blade;

first and second legs pivotally mounted to said head member;

a connector received in said slot and operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade;

~~a slot formed within said head member~~, said cutting blade being movable within said ~~slot~~ slit;

a shield portion connected to said head member and being disposed in a path of said cutting blade;

said head member having a cutting chamber defined by between said shield portion and said head member for placement of the plastic restraints to be severed;

said cutting blade having a cutting surface movable into said cutting chamber when said first and second legs are pivoted from an open position to in a closed position and out of said cutting chamber when said first and second legs are ~~in~~ pivoted to an open position.

27. (Original) The cutting device of claim 26, wherein the cutting blade has an outer contact point and angled cutting surfaces extending from either side of the outer contact point and wherein the outer contact point of the cutting blade is

positioned such that the outer contact point of the cutting blade contacts the restraint when the restraint is positioned within the cutting chamber.

28. (Original) The cutting device of claim 27, wherein when the legs are moved into their closed position the cutting blade severs the restraint from where the cutting blade contacts the restraint towards the sides of said restraint.

ay 29. (Original) The cutting device of claim 29, wherein a central portion of said restraint is positioned in the path of an outer cutting tip of the cutting blade.

30. (Original) The cutting device of claim 29, wherein a central portion of said restraint is positioned in the path of an outer cutting tip of the cutting blade.

31. (Original) The cutting device of claim 29, wherein the cutting blade is upwardly angled from the enclosed end of the cutting chamber whereby the restraint is pinned between the cutting blade and the enclosed end and the restraint is severed from a first side of the restraint to a second side of the restraint located nearer to the enclosed end of the chamber.

OK 32 32. (Original) The cutting device of claim 26, wherein a key ring is formed between the legs when the legs are in a closed positioned.

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